



**TESTIMONY**  
of the  
**CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES**  
to the  
**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

March 7, 2011

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

**Raised Bill 6498 "An Act Concerning School Districts"** would, among other things, provide some relief from the High School Reform mandate set forth by Public Act 10-111.

**Public Act 10-111 imposed new graduation and other requirements on local school districts** in the hope that the State would receive funds from the federal Race to the Top (RTTT) program. According to the Office of Fiscal Analysis, this new mandate will cost local school districts an estimated \$12 to \$18 million.

Unfortunately, the State was not awarded the RTTT funds, and **this unfunded mandate must be repealed or modified**. Of course it is important for education results to improve – but a new \$12-\$18 million mandate is absurd when the State is already underfunding existing education programs.

In addition, **Section 18 establishes a task force to "examine issues related to the changes to the high school graduation requirements."** CCM hopes that this will be a much more all-inclusive and open process to examine the many high-impact matters this subject entails - unlike the closed door meetings that produced PA 10-111, which excluded municipal CEOs - those with the sole responsibility of raising the funds to cover new unfunded state mandates.

CCM **urges support of education mandates relief** for local governments.

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